

Gillette, Liz

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**From:** Annmarie Merritt <pottersink@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2013 11:26 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** Maintain our state Parks

To Whom it May concern,

I visit local parks in nearby states and National Parks with open bathrooms, open snap bars, free maps and- actual garbage removal.

In Connecticut state parks, we don't seem to need garbage removal at our state beaches or parks, nor do we seem to need essential (park info, trail maintenance, actual live staff) staff at our parks. If we value tourism on a local or regional level, we should have staff and services at our local parks at a minimum. In truth, our neglected parks need actual maintenance and restoration.

I pay more at a Connecticut beach and get less services than traveling out of state and paying out of state fees to beaches nearby. Is that what we want our residents to do?

I travel through ghost parks in Connecticut where there are no services or staff. *As a single female, I don't actually feel safe parking in park parking lots and using trail alone since the parks are virtually abandoned with no staff on premises.* My car is not safe in the lots and I am not safe going alone. If parks were properly staffed, this would be a less glaring issue. In addition, there are no travel maps and no informational areas. This does not make a new visitor want to recommend the park to others. Are businesses missing the chance to sell gas and extras to people visiting our parks.

Our parks deserve more attention and funding. Actual programs like the history of the area, the plant life, the birds, geology and other education topics are what we should be striving to offer if not all the time, then at least on a semi regular basis at each park. With no garbage removal, we forget all that we are not doing at the parks.

Cut the crap and fund our Connecticut parks.

Annmarie Merritt  
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